

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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R 151303Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8219

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR NO

SUBJECT: AMERICAN BISHOP DESIRES TO SEE NORWEGIAN KING

1. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONFIRMING BONA FIDES OF HIS EMINENCE BISHOP S. MCDOWELL SHELTON, HEAD OF THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH, WHO HAS REQUESTED AUDIENCE WITH NORWEGIAN KING DURING PERIOD JUNE 19-22.

2. FYI. REQUEST WAS DIRECT TO NORWEGIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON ON BISHOP SHELTON'S BEHALF BY LEOPOLD SZOR, DIRECTOR, EURAFILM, 21 EAST 90TH STREET, NEW YORK (ACCORDING TO LETTERHEAD, EURAFILM IS "A DIVISION OF EURASIAN RADIO AND FILM DISTRIBUTION, LTD."). EMBASSY FORWARDED REQUEST TO FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH IN UNUSUAL PROCEDURE FORWARDED IT DIRECTLY TO ROYAL PLACE. (CUSTOMARY PRACTICE IS FOR ALL REQUESTS FOR AUDIENCES BY FOREIGNERS TO BE REFERRED FIRST TO EMBASSY OF REQUESTER'S COUNTRY.) THE KING YESTERDAY HANDED THE FILE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO IN TURN HANDED IT TO AMBASSADOR BYRNE SAYING KING WOULD APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR'S ADVICE.

3. PROMOTIONAL LITERATURE SENT BY SZOR STATES APOSTOLIC CHURCH HAS NEARLY FIVE MILLION MEMBERS IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE, EUROPE, AFRICA, AND INDIA. BISHOP SHELTON PREACHES WEEKLY RADIO SERMONS, HEARD OVERSEAS AS WELL, AND TRAVELS EXTENSIVELY; SZOR FURNISHED PHOTO-
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GRPAHS OF SHELTON WITH INDIRA GANDHI, WITH HAILE SELASSIE,

AND WITH LATE PRESIDENT POMPIDOU. HEADQUARTERS OF
APOSTOLIC CHURCH (FULL NAME IS CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS
CHRIST OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH) IS SHOWN AS 22ND AND
BAINBRIDGE STREETS, PHILADELPHIA. EXPLAINING REQUEST
FOR AUDIENCE, SZOR STATES IN LETTER TO NORWEGIAN EMBASSY:
"THROUGH HIS DAILY RADIO BROADCASTS AND CHURCH PUBLICATIONS,
THE BISHOP WOULD LIKE TO FAMILIARIZE THE BLACK
PEOPLE WITH YOUR COUNTRY (AND NOT MUCH HAS BEEN DONE,
SO FAR, IN THIS DIRECTION)." END FYI.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE PROMPT INFORMATION
SO THAT AMBASSADOR CAN RESPOND TO KING'S REQUEST FOR
RECOMMENDATION.
BYRNE

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